

Homework Policy



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



The St John the Apostle homework policy benefits students in a number of ways. We believe homework should complement classroom learning, foster work routines and provide other opportunities for students to follow expectations of self-managing and taking ownership of their own learning.

In administering homework takes into account the following:

- The importance of family time in an increasingly complex and busy world
- The high percentage of shift workers within our parent community who are not in a position to oversee homework on a regular basis
- The limited access some students have towards technology and the internet
- The language barriers which a multicultural community experiences and how this impacts on parent's ability to assist in administering homework
- The desire of some families to enter their children in select entry secondary schools and the additional work that this may require outside of school hours
- The desire to provide a learning environment which best uses teacher time to improve student achievement

Aim of this policy

As a school we acknowledge that many parents have different expectations of homework and to formulate a homework structure which suits all is extremely challenging. For this reason our homework policy aims to take into account a number of factors which include current research as well as parent and teacher opinions. Therefore, the purpose of homework at St John the Apostle is to:

- Provide families with homework which allows them to partner with the school in a way which works best for them
- Provide an avenue which reinforces classroom learning and communicates with parents the learning currently being undertaken in the classroom
- Develop a responsibility for self-learning
- Assist our students in developing organisational and time management skills
- Prepare children for the demands of secondary school

Implementation

The following strategies and guidelines will be implemented to achieve the aim of the homework policy at St John the Apostle:

- The homework policy will be available on the school website for parents to read when required
- The homework policy will also be outlined on school information and enrolment nights
- During the first few weeks of the school year, homework will not be administered to allow teachers time to assess students and then assign homework at their appropriate level
- Homework books and satchels will be issued to students to assist in organising their homework and resources
- A sheet that outlines the structure and expectations of homework will be placed in the cover of homework books and this will include the login details for any online resources provided by the school
- Classroom teachers will set weekly homework appropriate for each year level

- Homework will be of a consistent structure to reduce confusion for students and families
- Homework will be of a consistent structure so that families can ensure they have the resources ready for students to complete the tasks
- Homework should be of a consistent workload to assist families in establishing time management routines
- Depending on the task, homework may be corrected as a group, whole class or individually by the teacher
- The school's website will include links to online resources provided by the school, however these activities are optional
- If families wish to seek further challenges for their child they can do this independently of the school as teachers are not in a position to administer, correct and give feedback on additional work
- In some cases homework submitted late will not be corrected and instead a record of late submission may be recorded
- Homework is not administered over the last week of each term or over the school holidays
- Families wishing to be exempt from homework should inform the school in writing at the commencement of each school year
- So that students can be treated fairly, students unable to complete homework should have a note from parents
- Students **will not** be kept in over playtimes to complete homework and late homework will not be corrected by the teacher
- Homework or additional work will not be issued to families who elect to go on holidays during the school term.
- Homework is to be distributed on a Monday and returned on Friday.
- Children are to complete homework 3 nights a week and they do not need to be consecutive days.

EARLY YEARS (Prep): 15 mins/night

Homework at this level will predominantly focus on developing oral reading skills. Therefore homework consists of:

- Daily reading of the take home book provided by the school which is heard by a parent or a guardian
- Nightly reviewing of focus words list in the child's take home book
- Review and practice simple Mathematical fluency skills

JUNIOR YEARS (Year 1-2) 20 mins/night

Year 1:

- Daily reading of the take home book provided by the school which is heard by a parent or a guardian
- Nightly reviewing of focus words list in the child's take home book
- One InitialLit worksheet that reinforces classroom learning in Literacy
N.B. In adhering to Education Department Guidelines, children should not exceed 20 minutes of homework each night
- Review and practice simple Mathematical fluency skills

Year 2:

- Daily reading of the take home book provided by the school which is heard by a parent or a guardian
- One InitialLit worksheet that reinforce classroom learning in Literacy
- Review and practice simple Mathematical fluency skills

MIDDLE YEARS (Year 3- Year 4): max 30 min/night

For children who are still to attain decodable texts, oral reading continues to remain the focus of homework.

Year 3:

- Daily reading (10-15mins per night)
- Two structured worksheets that reinforce classroom learning in Literacy and Mathematics

Year 4:

- Daily reading (10-15mins per night)
- Two structured worksheets that reinforce classroom learning in Literacy and Mathematics

SENIOR YEARS (Year 5 – Year 6): max 40 mins / night

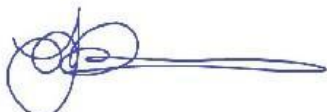
Homework at this level provides an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning. Therefore homework consists of:

- Daily independent reading (20 mins per night)
- Two structured worksheets that reinforce classroom learning in Literacy and Mathematics

Review

Authorised by
principal: Mr Simon Dundon

Signature:



Date:14/02/2025

Policy ratified by school leadership team:14/02/2025

Person responsible: Mr Simon Dundon

Next review date: July, 2026